

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: SMALL VOLUME GAS TRANSPORTATION	DOCKET NO. NOI-98-3
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ORDER SCHEDULING FILING

(Issued May 7, 1999)

Pursuant to IOWA ADMIN. CODE 199-19.13(4)"e" and "f" (1999), the natural gas utilities were given the option of filing with the Utilities Board (Board) tariffs to implement natural gas transportation service for small volume customers or a proposed plan for the Board's consideration. Each natural gas utility filed a proposed plan.

On November 11, 1999, Interstate Power Company and IES Utilities Inc. filed a motion requesting the Board establish a workshop process to attempt to attain more uniformity on some components of the utilities' plans. On December 28, 1998, the Board issued an order granting the motion and initiating the workshop proceeding. The Board identified the proceeding as Docket No. NOI-98-3 and stated action on the plans filed by the parties would be suspended during the workshop process.

Persons interested in participating were directed to send a written confirmation by January 11, 1999. The workshop participants met and discussed issues at five

meetings held between January 26, 1999, and April 13, 1999. One of the products of the workshops is a matrix of the discussion issues related to removing barriers to the competitive market. At the workshop, the participants stated they would like an opportunity to file written comments concerning their views of how the small volume gas process should move forward.

The Board will grant that opportunity. As the Board stated in the December 28, 1998, "Order Initiating Inquiry Proceeding," sworn testimony is not necessary since this is an informal inquiry. After reviewing the written comments of the participants, a final report will be prepared in this proceeding.

The written comments shall be made using the following procedure:

1. An original and one hard copy shall be filed with the executive secretary.
2. An electronic copy shall be sent to the inquiry manager's electronic mail (E-mail) address. In order to accommodate as many diverse computer systems as possible, all text must be included in the body of the electronic mail message, rather than by attachment. Any participant unable to provide an electronic copy by E-mail shall file ten additional hard copies with the executive secretary. In the alternative, any participant unable to provide an E-mail copy may consult with the inquiry manager to find other possible ways of providing electronic copies.

3. When a participant makes a filing, the participant shall send an electronic copy to each participant on the service list. Any participant making a filing who is unable to provide an electronic copy, shall send a facsimile or mail a hard copy to each participant.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Participants shall file comments, including answers to the questions in the body of this order, on or before 20 days from the date of this order. Participants may file reply comments ten days from the date initial comments are filed.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 7th day of May, 1999.